

BA 1952

WILLIAMS STORE

1915

FREELAND

PRIVATE

The Williams Store is a long rectangular two-story frame store and residence with gable roof and composition shingle covering. The style is vernacular. It has also doubled as a gasoline outlet, and in 1970 became a gun shop. It was originally a grocery store owned by Luther M.B. Williams who is charged with a new house in a 1915 correction to the tax ledger. Also new was a blacksmith shop. Williams went out of business in 1928, but other buyers have successfully carried on the business and the store was an informal community meeting place in recent years. A new business opened here in 1980 and the building was repainted.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC WILLIAMS STORE

AND/OR COMMON

Froelich Store

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1100 Freeland Road

CITY, TOWN

Freeland

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Albert W. Froelich

Telephone #: 357-8975

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1100 Freeland Road

CITY, TOWN

Freeland

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21053

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: JWB 1580:

Folio #: 52

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

NONE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

BA-1952

WILLIAMS STORE

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED (porch)

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

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The Froelich-Williams Store is a fairly spacious but box-like rural general store of vernacular or functional design, a frame structure of two stories plus attic, with wall covering of composition shingles and roofing material of corrugated metal. The gable end of this building faces Freeland Road (on the northside). This end is two bays wide at second-story level where the original windows can be seen. These are double-hung sash windows of 1-over-1 format, the gable peak containing two slightly smaller double-hung sash windows of similar design. The first story presents an enclosed, full-width, shed-roofed front porch to the road as the store entrance. The centrally located glass door is several steps above grade, flanked on either side by plate glass windows of moderate size—not display windows in that they are too far above street level and there is little pedestrian traffic in Freeland.

The enclosed entrance porch has an exit, a solid door, in its westside and is reached by a set of poured concrete steps.

This long, narrow building is four bays deep, with one window in each position at first-story level, but eight windows at second-story level. The second-story windows include a pair of contiguous sash windows and also a cluster of four contiguous windows, presumably designed to light the owner's living quarters. There windows, too, are double-hung sash windows of 1-over-1 design.

Advertised dimensions of the store are 25 by 40 feet. There is a fairly functional, gable-roofed frame building of 38 x 29 feet that serves as a garage and storage building.

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**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

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## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	— ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	— COMMUNITY PLANNING	— LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	— RELIGION
1400-1499	— ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	— CONSERVATION	— LAW	— SCIENCE
1500-1599	— AGRICULTURE	— ECONOMICS	— LITERATURE	— SCULPTURE
1600-1699	— ARCHITECTURE	— EDUCATION	— MILITARY	— SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	— ART	— ENGINEERING	— MUSIC	— THEATER
1800-1899	— COMMERCE	— EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	— PHILOSOPHY	— TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	— COMMUNICATIONS	— INDUSTRY	— POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	— OTHER (SPECIFY)
		— INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1915

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1907 and 1909, Luther M. B. Williams acquired two lots west of the Northern Central Railroad on the northside of Freeland Road in a small depot town known as Freelands or Freelands Station; these lots cost \$100 and \$40, respectively. (1) By the time of the 1911 tax ledger, Williams had 1-13/160 acre and a dwelling worth \$800, a storeroom worth \$100, an outbuilding worth \$100, and business assets of \$350. A later correction to the 1911 ledger showed:

New	House	\$1000	\$1100
1915	Blacksmith Shop	\$1100	100. (2)

The 1918 ledger showed the following breakdown, which suggests that the more expensive house was not listed as a store building, and its dimensions allow it to be easily matched with the structure surviving in 1980:

Luther M. B. Williams

Lot on Freeland &amp; Middletown road at Freeland station

Dwelling	10 x 20	1 story	\$865
	20 x 24	2 stories	
Blacksmith Shop			98
Stone Building	25 x 40	2 stories	2000
3 Outbuilding			200
Vehicles	20	L. Stock	100
Mdse			120
			350. (3)

A change made in 1921 read "Abate Mdse" which wiped out the entire value of the store goods. The 1923 tax ledger listed the commercial building as "Store Hall—\$2200." (4)

In 1928, Williams was in financial difficulty and conveyed his assets to John Mays Little, as trustee. Some of the testimony mentioned "the contents of a store formerly conducted by the said Luther M. B. Williams at Freeland ... groceries, scales, show cases, can goods, bolts, nails .... old stock and not readily saleable at retail." (5)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

Trustee Little advertised the place as a "Dwelling and Store Property" including a large six-room frame dwelling. The "other lot" was "improved by a frame store and ware house ... store 25 by 40 feet 2 floors attic and cellar, floor space 4000 feet." (6)

The public auction resulted in a sale to Floyd L. Kurtz. C. Kurtz sold to Charles E. Humes in 1940. (7) Humes sold to Albert H. Froelich in 1947, and the place has been known as the Froelich store for several decades. (8)

A photo of the store, which doubled as a gasoline outlet, appeared in the Sun of December 13, 1968, where it was described as one of the community meeting places. (9)

Some time in the late 1970s, the store was closed and was offered for sale in real estate publications. In the spring of 1980, the structure was being repainted. The 1979 telephone book showed the Freeland Gun Shop, Jim Moore, owner, at this address.

## NOTES:

1. Baltimore Deeds, WPC 319:328; WPC 344:255.
2. Tax Ledger, District 6, 1911, f. 285.
3. Tax Ledger, District 6, 1918, f. 303.
4. Tax Ledger, District 6, 1923, f. 340.
5. Judicial Records, WHM 336:256.
6. Judicial Records, WHM 336:262.
7. B.C. Deeds, RJS 1509:143.
8. B.C. Deeds, JWB 1580:52.
9. Earl Arnett, "In Baltimore County, Transformation Under Way," Sun, December 13, 1968, p. B1.

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

WILLIAMS STORE

Baltimore County Deeds, Judicial Records, and Tax Ledgers.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.47

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Rectangular parcel, on northside of Freeland Road, west of Bee Tree Run, with 180 feet highway frontage, 116 feet depth.  
(Tax Map 6, Parcel P171).

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

John W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning

DATE

June 5, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

BA 1952

NEW FREEDOM







Williams Store BA 1952  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, Oct 1980  
Neg. located at MHT  
South and east facades